



Europäisches Patentamt  
European Patent Office  
Office européen des brevets



(11) **EP 0 952 734 A3**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:  
17.10.2001 Bulletin 2001/42

(51) Int Cl.7: **H04N 7/16, H04N 5/44**

(43) Date of publication A2:  
27.10.1999 Bulletin 1999/43

(21) Application number: **99302922.2**

(22) Date of filing: **15.04.1999**

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU  
MC NL PT SE**  
Designated Extension States:  
**AL LT LV MK RO SI**

- Janniello, James P.  
Stamford, CT 06905 (US)
- Pence, William Edward  
New York, New York 10010 (US)
- Yeo, Boon-Lock  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086 (US)

(30) Priority: **21.04.1998 US 63295**

(71) Applicant: **International Business Machines  
Corporation**  
**Armonk, N.Y. 10504 (US)**

(74) Representative: **Zerbi, Guido Maria**  
**Intellectual Property Department,**  
**IBM United Kingdom Ltd.,**  
**Hursley Park**  
**Winchester, Hampshire SO21 2JN (GB)**

(72) Inventors:  
• **Chen, Jeane**  
**Chappaqua, NY 10514 (US)**

(54) **System for selecting, accessing, and viewing portions of an information stream(s) using a television companion device**

(57) A television companion device (TCD) is a device comprising a communication transceiver capable of receiving a signal from a television set, the signal having one or more types of information split from a broadcast signal received by the television set and an output that presents one or more segments of one or more of the types of information. This device enables the personal viewing of information selected specifically for the individual. This information can be different than and/or

unrelated to that displayed on the television. The information displayed on each individual TCD may be video clips or video programs, audio clips or audio programs, data, graphical images, still images, and/or animations. The device may also comprise an input that sends one or more messages through the communication transceiver to the television, thereby allowing the viewer to send requests for information to the television or send messages to other television companion devices.

**EP 0 952 734 A3**



European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 99 30 2922

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	US 5 708 961 A (HYLTON D. ET AL) 13 January 1998 (1998-01-13)	1-3,5-16	H04N7/16 H04N5/44
Y	* column 2, line 24 - column 9, line 28 * * column 10, line 46 - column 11, line 22 * column 13, line 8 - column 15, line 58 * * column 17, line 18 - line 48 * * column 26, line 9 - line 39 * ---	17-25	
Y	WO 96 27840 A (TELEVITESSE SYSTEMS INC.) 12 September 1996 (1996-09-12) * page 2, line 32 - page 6, line 32 * ---	17,18, 21-25	
Y	WO 97 36391 A (GATEWAY 2000 INC.) 2 October 1997 (1997-10-02) * page 17, line 30 - page 19, line 22 * ---	19,20	
P,X	US 5 794 116 A (MATSUDA T. ET AL) 11 August 1998 (1998-08-11) * column 3, line 50 - column 6, line 29 * * column 11, line 8 - column 13, line 38 * & JP 09 027951 A (MATSUSHITA DENKI SANGYO KK) 28 January 1997 (1997-01-28) ---	1-3,5-16	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) H04N
A	US 5 446 919 A (WILKINS J.) 29 August 1995 (1995-08-29) * column 7, line 65 - column 10, line 44 * ---	17,18, 21-25	
A	WO 95 08226 A (METEOMEDIA/THE WEATHER NETWORK) 23 March 1995 (1995-03-23) * page 2, line 2 - line 18 * * page 7, line 19 - page 8, line 7 * ---	17,18, 21-25	
A	WO 96 17467 A (HERZ F.) 6 June 1996 (1996-06-06) * the whole document * ---	17,18, 21-25	
		-/--	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>23 August 2001</b>	Examiner <b>Verschelden, J</b>
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

EPO FORM 1503 03.92 (P04C01)



European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 99 30 2922

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	WO 97 17774 A (SEIKO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS INC.) 15 May 1997 (1997-05-15) * the whole document *	17,18, 21-25	
A	US 5 721 583 A (HARADA T. ET AL) 24 February 1998 (1998-02-24) * column 15, line 31 - column 17, line 48 *	1,5,8-10	
A	EP 0 804 012 A (NOKIA MOBILE PHONES LTD.) 29 October 1997 (1997-10-29) * column 2, line 19 - column 4, line 22 * * column 5, line 20 - column 8, line 30 * * column 9, line 54 - column 10, line 5 *	1-3,5, 8-16	
A	US 5 715 020 A (ISAO M. ET AL) 3 February 1998 (1998-02-03) * column 26, line 21 - column 39, line 40 *	1,5,8-10	
P,X	DE 197 37 355 A (SIEMENS AG) 4 March 1999 (1999-03-04) * the whole document *	1-3,5-16	
P,X	EP 0 849 943 A (SIEMENS AG) 24 June 1998 (1998-06-24) * the whole document *	1-3,5-16	
E	US 6 020 863 A (TAYLOR R.) 1 February 2000 (2000-02-01) * the whole document *	1-3,5-16	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>23 August 2001</b>	Examiner <b>Verschelden, J</b>
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 99 30 2922

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

23-08-2001

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5708961 A	13-01-1998	US 5613190 A	18-03-1997
		US 5613191 A	18-03-1997
		US 5630204 A	13-05-1997
		US 5793413 A	11-08-1998
WO 9627840 A	12-09-1996	AU 4780996 A	23-09-1996
		CA 2214605 A	12-09-1996
		EP 0813716 A	29-12-1997
		JP 11505682 T	21-05-1999
WO 9736391 A	02-10-1997	US 5867223 A	02-02-1999
		AU 2332397 A	17-10-1997
		CA 2250189 A	02-10-1997
		EP 0890232 A	13-01-1999
		JP 2000507752 T	20-06-2000
		US 5838384 A	17-11-1998
US 5794116 A	11-08-1998	JP 9027951 A	28-01-1997
US 5446919 A	29-08-1995	NONE	
WO 9508226 A	23-03-1995	CA 2106222 A	16-03-1995
		AT 153201 T	15-05-1997
		AU 679260 B	26-06-1997
		AU 7649594 A	03-04-1995
		BR 9407697 A	04-02-1997
		DE 69403222 D	19-06-1997
		DE 69403222 T	11-09-1997
		DK 719482 T	03-11-1997
		EP 0719482 A	03-07-1996
		ES 2102879 T	01-08-1997
		GR 3024410 T	28-11-1997
		JP 9511364 T	11-11-1997
		NZ 273262 A	22-09-1997
		US 6016158 A	18-01-2000
WO 9617467 A	06-06-1996	US 5758257 A	26-05-1998
		AU 703247 B	25-03-1999
		AU 4410396 A	19-06-1996
		CA 2207868 A	06-06-1996
		EP 0796538 A	24-09-1997
		US 6020883 A	01-02-2000
		US 5734720 A	31-03-1998
		US 5754938 A	19-05-1998
		US 5754939 A	19-05-1998
		US 5835087 A	10-11-1998

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 99 30 2922

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

23-08-2001

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9617467 A		US 6088722 A	11-07-2000
		US 6029195 A	22-02-2000
WO 9717774 A	15-05-1997	AU 7606696 A	29-05-1997
US 5721583 A	24-02-1998	JP 9147029 A	06-06-1997
		JP 9149392 A	06-06-1997
		EP 0776132 A	28-05-1997
EP 804012 A	29-10-1997	FI 961750 A	24-10-1997
		JP 10098706 A	14-04-1998
		US 6172673 B	09-01-2001
US 5715020 A	03-02-1998	JP 7059072 A	03-03-1995
		JP 7059166 A	03-03-1995
		CA 2130018 A,C	14-02-1995
		DE 69425198 D	17-08-2000
		DE 69425198 T	15-03-2001
		EP 0639030 A	15-02-1995
		US 5619251 A	08-04-1997
DE 19737355 A	04-03-1999	WO 9911068 A	04-03-1999
EP 849943 A	24-06-1998	NONE	
US 6020863 A	01-02-2000	NONE	

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82